

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 27, 29, 30, 40, 47 and 52-56 have been amended, and claims 57-59 have been added. Thus, claims 27-59 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

At the bottom of page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 29-34, 54 and 55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, claim 27 has been amended to incorporate therein the limitation of allowable claim 29, claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 27, claim 52 has been amended to incorporate therein the limitation of claim 29, and claim 54 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 52. It is noted, however, that each of the now-independent claims 27, 30, 52 and 54 no longer includes the limitation "said spring member having lower rigidity than said support arm." This limitation has been placed in dependent claims 29, 57, 58 and 59. It is submitted, however, that the removal of this limitation has no bearing on the previously-indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 29, 30 and 54.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 27, 30, 52 and 54, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are clearly allowable in view of the indication of the allowability of claims 29-34, 54 and 55 at the bottom of page 7 of the Office Action.

Regarding the informalities noted at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action and on page 3 of the Office Action, each of these informalities has been corrected in the amendments presented above. Regarding the lack of antecedent basis for the term "said slit of said support arm" in claims 40 and 47, this has been obviated by amending claims 40 and 47 to depend from claim 30, which provides the requisite antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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